

The BROAD AX

HEW TO THE LINE; LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY

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The Death and Funeral of Rev. Elijah J. Fisher Pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, 27th and Dearborn Streets Since 1902

HE WAS A PROMINENT CITIZEN IN EVERY WAY AN INTELLECTUAL GIANT WHO POSSESSED A MASTER MIND WHO SUCCESSFULLY PRESIDED OVER ONE OF THE LARGEST AFRO-AMERICAN CHURCHES IN THE MIDDLE WEST.

HE WAS THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE WESTERN BAPTIST CONVENTION AND PRESIDENT OF THE ILLINOIS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

A VAST MULTITUDE OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE ATTENDED HIS FUNERAL.

BY L. W. WASHINGTON.

Last Saturday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, Rev. Elijah J. Fisher, who since 1902, was the energetic and hard working pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, 27th and Dearborn streets, quietly and peacefully folded his arms in death, at his home 2940 S. Park avenue, after a long spell of illness and a general break down from overwork.

When the end finally came he was surrounded by Mrs. Fisher, his constant and devoted wife, and the other immediate members of his family and Rev. Duncan, assistant pastor of Olivet, and a few others of his close friends.

To the everlasting credit of Rev. Fisher, he rescued Olivet Baptist Church, from its wreck and ruin in 1902, after it had been sold at Sheriff's sale to pay its debts and from that time to his death, he worked day and night, to get it on a solid financial foundation and paid off more than \$30,000 of its indebtedness, practically leaving it free from debt.

At the time he assumed charge of it, it was split in two, by two warring factions, both factions being fully determined to exterminate the other and more than half of its membership, followed its former pastor, the Rev. J. F. Thomas, to Arlington Hall, 31st street and Indiana avenue, later on establishing the Ebenezer Baptist Church at 35th and Dearborn streets and when Rev. Fisher, was forced to relinquish his duties as pastor of Olivet Baptist church, he left it with more than three thousand and eight hundred members, in the most flourishing condition.

Funeral services were held over his remains Thursday morning. The body laying in state at the church all day Wednesday and on Thursday morning until near the time of the funeral and during that length of time fully five thousand people viewed the remains in sorrow. The members of the church held the evening sacred by all night devotional exercises. The many floral contributions caused the pulpit to look like one veritable flower garden. Rev. Dr. C. T. Walker "The Block Spurgeon" of America arriving from Augusta, Ga., Wednesday evening eloquently preached the funeral sermon.

THE EIGHTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARDS LEFT FOR ENCAMPMENT AT CAMP LINCOLN, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, LAST EVENING.

The Eighth Regiment Illinois National Guards, Col. Franklin A. Denison commanding, left last evening for one week's encampment, at Camp Lincoln, near Springfield, Illinois, and the members of the regiment expect to have a good outing and to undergo rigid military training.

Frank L. Hamilton, Alfred Anderson and Cary E. Lewis, will be among those who will join the regiment in Camp.

Mr. Hamilton, has already been cited to appear before the high or the can-

His subject being "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, now am I ready to be offered up." Dr. Walker baptized as well as ordained Dr. Fisher and knew him from childhood, therefore none were better qualified to preach the funeral, which was an eloquent appeal in behalf of Christian Living. Two choirs sang the songs, love and hope, which left the people's eyes filled with tears. The mighty has fallen, and the Colored people are made by his death, to once more acknowledge the presence of their God. Congressman Martin B. Madden, The Hon. Oscar De Priest, both very dear friends of his, Mrs. B. W. Pitts, Mr. J. F. McLemore, Stephen Griffin, Mrs. F. L. Barnett, Hon. Samuel A. Ettelson, Judge Horatio W. Wells, Rev. E. T. Martin, of Bethesda, Rev. Heywood of Salem, Rev. W. S. Braddan, of Barren Baptist Church and chaplain of the 8th Regiment, Rev. H. Knight, of the West Side, Dr. J. P. Brushingham, of 33rd St. and South Park M. E. Church, The Rev. J. C. Anderson, Pastor of Quinn Chapel, Hon. R. Cowan, Dr. W. M. Davis, Mat. Hulett, and a host of other prominent citizens were in attendance, Madame Clifford Johnson, was the funeral director, the funeral train conveyed the body to its last resting place at 1 o'clock from 47th St. to Mt. Forest Cemetery.

The Western Star members were present with their badges of mourning to pay their respects of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows.

The church was filled to its utmost capacity at 8:30 A. M. The fire department and the police department were on hand and creditably controlled the crowd. Some of the people stayed in the church all night, some went there as early as 3 A. M. while thousands filled the streets and building on the outside for 3 and 1/2 hours, satisfied just to review the funeral procession as it passed on.

Rev. Fisher was one of our warm friends and was one of its financial supporters and our heartfelt love and sympathy flows out to the members of his family over his passing on through the valley of silent death into the next world.

garoo court of the regiment, which meets every night at 12 o'clock. One of the charges lodged against him, is that he wears his hat with too much of a tilt on the left side of his head, which is in violation of the established rules of the army and that he fails to give, the proper military salute, when he comes in contact with his superior officers.

Thursday, as is customary, will be Governor's day, at which time Governor Edward F. Dunne, accompanied by his staff, will "troop the line" and review the regiment.

We are very sorry indeed to learn of the death of our friend and brother, O. M. Henderson of Englewood. We hope to say more about him next week.



HON. FRANK H. GRAHAM.

One of the popular and honorable judges of the Municipal Court, who would make a dandy or an ideal candidate for Attorney General of Illinois in 1916.

THEATRE VENTILATION.

The work of enforcing the ventilation ordinance of Chicago in so far as it applies to theatres has been practically completed. With the exception of a few isolated cases, all of the theatres in Chicago are equipped with a ventilating system that, if continuously operated during performances, will maintain a satisfactory air condition, in accordance with the requirements of the ordinance.

This, however, is only a good beginning in the crusade to provide pure air for Chicago's citizens. To succeed in getting the theatres equipped was the first step; to see that the systems are operated is almost as difficult. This does not apply in all cases, for where a good equipment has been carefully designed to meet the particular requirements and properly installed, the theatre manager is invariably loud in the praise of the innovation; in fact theatre proprietors call at the Department of Health almost daily and state that they cannot do business when the equipment is not in operation.

There were, however, entirely too many theatres where the owners felt that the enforcement of the ordinance was a hardship and where they complied, only under severe pressure. In many of these cases they bought the cheapest ventilating equipment that it was possible to procure. Many of them were installed by men unfamiliar with ventilation work and the result is, the operation is unsatisfactory and in some cases very expensive.

Engineers from the Ventilation Division have been visiting theatres that fall under this category and are making a study of the situation. We find in many cases that a little careful study of conditions, with slight alterations, will make a satisfactory equipment of what was formerly very unsatisfactory. The Department wishes to cooperate with theatre owners in an endeavor to help them get their money's worth from the equipments that have been installed, knowing that a sanitary, well ventilated theatre is the only one in the present state of public alertness that is a money making proposition.

An invitation is extended to all theatre owners who have difficulty with their equipments, to notify the Department of Health of the facts in the case. An experienced man will be detailed to study conditions and offer suggestions for improving the same. It is often possible to improve the distribution of the air; to increase, or in some cases reduce, the amount of air handled; to eliminate noise and to decrease operating expenses by means of simple changes judiciously made.

It is also possible in some cases to install cool water sprays and materially reduce the temperature in the theatre

in warm weather; also to provide a steam jet in the main duct that will increase the humidity of the air in dry weather and considerably enhance the value of the installation. Slight additions and alterations of this character can often be made at a minimum expense and will prove a money making proposition to the theatre owner.

If we protect the pig, why not conserve the child?

In the unscreened home the fly swatter availeth little.

Luckily the few who always oppose progress have never been able to make the world stand still.

BUSINESS LEAGUE CONVENTION NOTES.

Boston, Mass., Special to The Broad AX.

In addition to the regular business sessions of the Convention to be held in Boston, August 18th, 19th and 20th, the Colored citizens of Boston, always hospitable are sparing no pains to make the coming and stay of the delegates and visitors a most pleasant one.

A Guarantee Fund for the purpose of financing every feature of the reception and entertainment of the delegates and visiting friends has already been over-subscribed.

The I. B. O. P. E. are preparing to entertain most fittingly their visiting Brother Elks.

The New England Medical Association is making arrangements to entertain the visiting brethren of the Medical Profession.

The local members of the National Negro Funeral Directors Association have in store a rich treat for the visiting members of their Fraternity. Undertaker Basil H. Hutchins is Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements.

On Thursday evening, August 19th, a royal, monster reception in honor of the officers and delegates will be held in the State Armory in Cambridge, just across the famous Harvard Bridge. The Cambridge Local League is arranging for this reception which promises to be one of the leading social features of the whole Convention.

The officers and members of the National Negro Press Association will be given a sumptuous breakfast during Convention Week. The local members of the Press Association are to be the Hosts. Editor Harrison of the Cambridge Advocate is Chairman of the

Col. Giles B. Jackson and His Fifty Years of Freedom Celebration at Richmond, Virginia, Has Turned Out to be a Rank Failure

The Star of Newport News, Va., of recent date sets forth its opinion of Col. Jackson and his Richmond fair or his fifty years of freedom celebration which lately closed down, which was a rank failure, in the following manner:

THAT RICHMOND FAIR.

Today ends the existence of one of the greatest farces that has ever been inflicted upon the people of this section of the country.

Sometime ago the Congress of the United States appropriated the sum of fifty-five thousand dollars to assist in celebrating the fiftieth year of the Negro's freedom in this land, and that money was entrusted to Giles B. Jackson and some other men who we have never heard mentioned, for the consummation of the result named; but never in all our experience and observations have we seen a more miserable failure in projecting such an affair.

Instead of enlisting the help of the Negro newspapers throughout the country in promoting this enterprise, Mr. Jackson essayed to advertise the affair by issuing a publication called the "Industrial Herald," which few people read, and fewer still remember anything in it which they read, and from the beginning to the end few people seemed to take sufficient interest in the Negro Industrial Exposition to even help it to make a decent headway.

The Richmond people who usually make a success of any undertaking, in which any of the citizens of the progressive city is interested did not take the trouble to lose any of their time, in giving the concern the least consideration. The celebration was held in the grounds of the State Fair Association therefore, there was no necessity for the expenditure of any money for buildings or improvements and while there were a few things of interest on exhibition, there were so few that they were not of sufficient interest to command the attention of even the local people, let alone the people from other parts of Virginia or the country in general.

Committee arranging for this breakfast.

A Banquet and Grand Ball will be given Friday evening, August 20th, in Convention Hall, by the Boston Business League, in honor of the officers, delegates, their wives and visiting friends. This Ball promises to be one of the most satisfactory affairs of its kind ever given in honor of the National Negro Business League.

On Saturday, August 21st, will come the final climax to the "Big Week" in the form of a most delightful trip down Boston's famous harbor on the palatial steamer, the City of Boston. Boston's harbor is considered one of the prettiest along the North Atlantic Coast, and is filled with the invigorating ozone that prevails during the summer months. What is nicer than, with a mind free from business cares, to take the long draughts of the reviving salt sea breezes and live for a whole afternoon close to the heart of nature's "Great Big Ocean."

Twelve of the astute Colored politicians met in conference at Hon. Geo. W. Ellis office 30th and State St., you may rest assure, they are not meeting there weekly for nothing, there is something going to happen or "there is some thing dead up the creek."

At no time during the existence of the exposition, were there more than a few—a very few—people in attendance.

The more one inquired the cause of the terrible frost, the more you were met with the answer, the affair was entirely a one-man concern, and that since the success, if any success, would be credited to Col. Giles B. Jackson, the more determined was the public to show that the failure should be attributed to the same source.

That the affair was most miserably advertised and more miserably managed goes without saying, and since it was in the hands of one man, the Negroes of Richmond, of the State of Virginia and the entire country, have no regrets at its failure.

What a pity the Congress of the United States, or those authorized by the Congress, had not been apprised before the money was appropriated to exploit an exposition commemorative of the Negro's progress in this country since slavery, that it would be necessary to enlist the services of Negro men and women, who not only had the confidence of the people, but who had the sense to know what would be necessary to be done to insure the success of such an undertaking.

It is true some such men were named on the committee of management, but it turns out that they had no more to do with the management of the affair than some one in a foreign land. We are exceedingly glad that the Negro newspapers all over the country are hastening to make it known that the consummate farce was due to the utter mismanagement of those who directly handled the affair and that the intelligent Negro of Virginia had no possible part in either its promotion or its failure.

This should be a lesson to the White men of the South, that the old anti-bellum Negro, of whom he is so especially fond, and who filled his place admirably and well, is not the kind of Negro who will suit nowadays, to foster and conduct great enterprises, which call for experience and wisdom of a commanding order.

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM ROBINSON.

Last Sunday afternoon funeral services were held over the remains of Captain William Robinson, 3511 Federal street, who was at the head of Company A 12th Regiment Uniform Rank, of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows at the Institutional Church.

All the prominent Odd Fellows as well as the lesser members of that order were in evidence at the funeral. Captain Robinson by hard work saved enough of money to buy the two flat building at the above mentioned number where he resided with his lovely and dutiful wife, Mrs. Robinson. Aside from her, he leaves a sister, Mrs. Maggie Strange of Pittsburgh, Pa., and hosts of friends to mourn his death.

His remains were laid to rest in Oakwood cemetery and Mrs. Robinson wishes to thank her many friends and all others who have assisted her in any way during her bereavement.

The funeral of Mrs. Nesbit, a member of Hannibal Court, No. 3, O. O. C. of K. of P.'s was held at the house 3229 Cottage Grove Ave., last Sunday at 1 P. M. Rev. J. C. Anderson, of Quinn Chapel officiated.